



The Garden Classroom  
Newington Green Park Building  
2 Newington Green  
Islington, London N1 4RF

020 7288 0188

07436 580438

thegardenclassroom.org.uk

Registered UK Charity No. 1168587  
Company Ltd by Guarantee No. 06759008

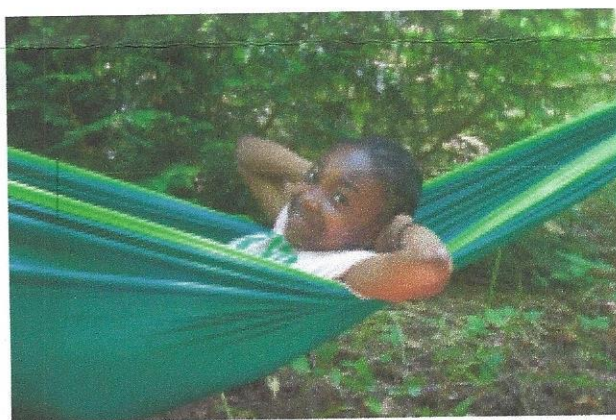
## HOBBS HILL CAMP REPORT

22nd August 2023

Dear Trustees of the Nineveh Charitable Trust

We are happy to provide a report following your donation of £4965 to The Garden Classroom in December 2022.

2023 has been another wonderful year of camping at Hobbs Hill with 212 children hosted in the High Weald AONB. We have welcomed new facilitators and new activities (including ceilidhs, cooking on campfires in the copse, and new games) which have added to the richness of the camping experience.



But don't just take it from us! Hear what some of our pupils had to say of their visits this summer...

*"I don't know how nature is so beautiful...it's just gorgeous."*

*"I can't believe I haven't used my phone for three days and most of the time I forgot about it."*

*"It feels like we are walking into nowhere and I can breathe more."*

*"I want to live here for a year. It feels amazing without technology."*

...And the teachers:

*"Such a great experience. Some of our school staff had never camped before and it helped them to see what the positive impacts of being outside were. Highly recommended for everyone."*

Your funds enabled us to buy a wide range of vital equipment and supplies for our regular Hobbs Hill camping programme for deprived, inner city children. Everything from outdoor clothes and wellies for those who couldn't provide their own, camping supplies including new tarps and pillows, outdoor craft and activity supplies such as whittling knives and bug pots, and a range of items to improve our kitchen and camp set up more generally. These are supplies that will continue to enhance our programme for years to come.

Children visited us from six schools in Hackney, Islington and Watford for two and three night camps. Schools had an average Pupil Premium allocation of 40%. This means that a significant proportion of the children we hosted live in poverty in homes with income below £7,400, are looked after by the state, or are subject to other forms of deprivation, and would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in fun and rewarding nature connection experiences like this.

### Highlights:

- We hosted a successful visit from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom to renew our CLOtC Quality Badge with the assessor commenting on the high quality of the programme.
- The new kitchen and pantry made cooking meals and snacks easier and meant we were able to provide a greater variety of food for the children.
- We built on our work with trauma-informed therapist Kati Taunt to train our team and ensure our camps support children's wellbeing.

### Learnings:

- We are having increasing numbers of autistic children camping with us and although we are already used to working with these children, we have decided that a focus for next year will be getting further autism training for our team, and creating a "Safe Space" where autistic children (and all children) can retreat and relax when they feel overwhelmed on camp.
- Feedback from the Council of Learning Outside the Classroom highlighted that we should have more toilets and showers onsite given the number of people staying. We therefore plan to build two outdoor compost toilets and two outdoor showers for next summer.

Thank you Nineveh Charitable Trust team for enabling urban children to experience the beauty and magic of the countryside. We couldn't have done it without you. We would be delighted to welcome your trustees to visit our camp in summer 2024.

Best wishes

The entire TGC team.

